

THE
S I E G E
OF
PENOBSCOT
BY THE
REBELS;

CONTAINING A
JOURNAL of the PROCEEDINGS

OF
His MAJESTY'S FORCES detached from the 74th and 82d REGIMENTS, consisting of about 700 Rank and File, under the command of Brigadier-General FRANCIS M'LEAN,

AND OF
THREE of His MAJESTY'S SLOOPS of WAR, of 16 Guns each, under the Command of Captain HENRY MOWAT, Senior Officer;

WHEN BESIEGED BY
THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED (Rebel) Land Forces, under the Command of Brigadier-General *Solomon Lovell*,

AND
SEVENTEEN Rebel Ships and Vessels of War, under the Command of *G. Saltonstall*, Commodore.

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED
A PROCLAMATION issued June 15, 1779, by General M'LEAN and Captain BARCLAY to the Inhabitants;

ALSO
Brigadier-General *Lovell*'s PROCLAMATION to the Inhabitants; and his LETTER to Commodore *Saltonstall*, found on board the Rebel Ship *Hunter*;

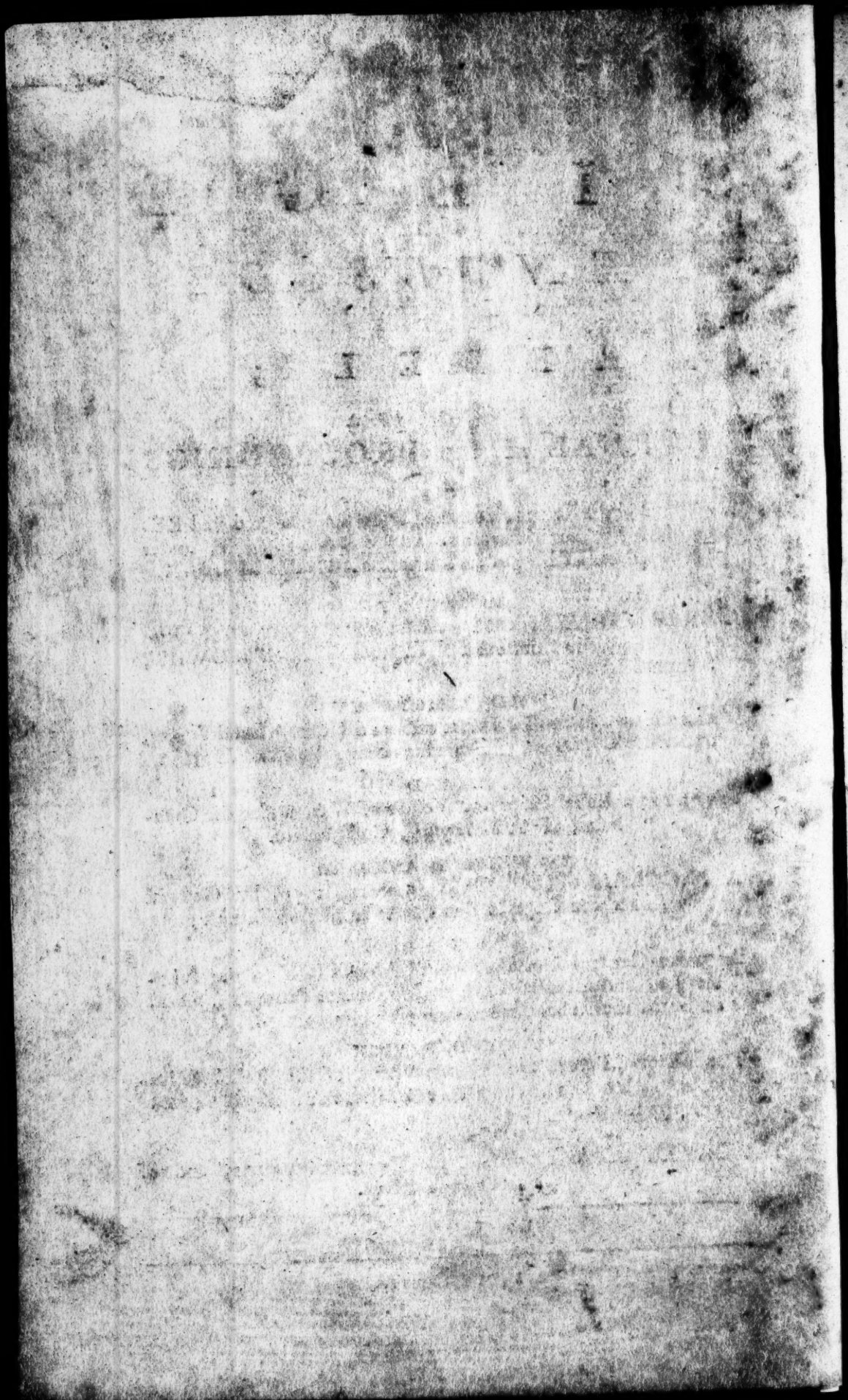
TOGETHER WITH
The Names, Force, and Commanders, of the Rebel Ships destroyed in PENOBSCOT BAY and RIVER, *August 14 and 15, 1779.*

WITH
A CHART of the Peninsula of MAJABIGWADUCE, and of PENOBSCOT River.

By J. C. Esq.

M,DCC,LXXXI.

The greatest number at no time exceeded eight hundred & seventy rank & file. J.M.



JOURNAL,

&c. &c.

ON the 17th day of June, 1779, Brigadier General Francis M^rLean landed at Majabigwaduce (Penobscot) with about 700 of his Majesty's forces, composed of detachments from the 74th and 82d regiments, to take post in the eastern country of New England. The time from this day to the 17th of July, was taken up in clearing a spot to erect a fort, and building the same, and a battery near the shore, with store houses, &c.

July 18. Intelligence was received that a fleet and army were preparing at Boston to besiege Penobscot, of which but little notice was taken. Capt. Henry Mowat, of his Majesty's sloop Albany, having been many years on the American station, and well acquainted with the disposition of the

B.

inha-

Coast of New England

inhabitants, and of the importance of the country of Penobscot to the Americans, for fire wood, lumber, masts, cod and river fish, gave credit to the information, and ordered the three sloops of war into the best situation to defend the harbour, annoy the Enemy, and co-operate with the land forces.

July 19. The intelligence of yesterday gains credit; whereupon the General, in order to make the proper dispositions for an immediate defence, desists, for the present, from his purpose of proceeding in a regular way with the fort; and prepares to fortify in a manner more expeditious, and better suited to the present emergency; in doing which he shews the utmost vigilance and activity, giving every where the necessary directions, visiting incessantly by night and day the different parts of the works, and thus by his example animating his men to proceed, regardless of fatigue, with vigour and alacrity in their operations. The Inspector of the inhabitants begs leave of the General to call in the people, to assist in carrying on the works; which being granted, about a hundred inhabitants came in (with their Captain* at their head) as volunteers; and having worked three days gratis, cleared the land of wood in the front of the fort, to the satisfaction

* John Perkins.

faction of the General, who returned them his thanks.

July 20. All hands busy at work, preparing to receive the enemy. At noon, Capt. Mowat, having made every preparation in his power to secure the harbour, &c. sent 180 men on shore from the ships of war, to work on the fort.

July 21. Intelligence is received that a fleet of near 40 sail of vessels had sailed from Boston, eastward. All hands at work day and night.

July 22. Nothing remarkable. All hands at work day and night. This evening a spy brought an account that 40 sail of vessels put into Townsend Harbour yesterday.

July 23. Every person busily employed. The Inspector calls in a great number of inhabitants to work, who are employed in felling trees, raising an abbatis round the fort, building platforms for the guns, &c. Saw three sail in the offing. Several canoes from the islands below come to advise the General of a large number of vessels being becalmed off St. George's Island, standing with their heads to the eastward. All doubt of an attack from the Enemy is now vanished.

July 24. At 4 P. M. discovered a large fleet standing up the bay, which, from various circumstances, we believed to be the armament that, according to intelligence received, had been fitted out at Boston, to besiege this place. On this account, Capt. Mowat thought proper to detain the North and Nautilus sloops, which had been ordered for other service. At five, by signal from the Albany, the seamen, who for some days past had been at work in-raising the S. E. bastion of the fort, repaired on board their respective ships, (which were immediately cleared for action) and, as had been usual, were every evening exercised at their quarters. The Albany, North, and Nautilus, had dropped down the harbour, and moored in a well-formed and close line of battle across the entrance, immediately within the rocks on Bagwaduice point, and the point of Nautilus, or Cross Island; giving a birth, out of the line of fire, to three transports, stationed and prepared to slip and run foul of the Enemy's ships, should they attempt to enter the harbour. The troops were encamped about half a mile from the works; the well bastion of which was not yet begun, nor the *Seamen's** quite finished; but, on the appearance of the Enemy, the works were put in a more defensible state: some cannon

* So called as being the work of the seamen only, under the direction of Lieut. Brooke, of his Majesty's ship North.

non were mounted, and the little army was in garrison early the next morning. Guard-boats, during the night, watched the motions of the Enemy, who were discovered to have come to an anchor about three or four leagues off, in the narrows of Penobscot.

July 25. At 10 A. M. a brig appeared at some distance from the harbour's mouth, and after reconnoitring the situation of the men of war, stood back into the fleet. At noon, the Enemy's fleet, consisting of 37 sail of ships, brigs, and transports, arrived in the bay of the harbour; the transports proceeded about half a mile up Penobscot river, and came to an anchor, while the armed ships and brigs stood off and on, and a boat from each ship repaired on board their flag ship, which had thrown out a signal for that purpose. At 3 P. M. nine ships, forming into three divisions, stood towards the King's ships, and, as they advanced in the line, hove-to and engaged. A very brisk cannonade continued four glasses, when the Enemy bore up, and came to an anchor in the bay without. The King's ships suffered only in their rigging. The fire of the Enemy was random and irregular; and their manœuvres, as to backing and filling, bespoke confusion, particularly in the first division, which
scarcely

scarcely got from the line of fire when the second began to engage. The second and third divisions appeared to have but one object in view, that of cutting the springs of the men of war, to swing them from the bearings of their broadsides, and thereby to afford their fleet an entrance into the harbour. During the cannonade with the shipping, the Enemy made an attempt to land their troops on Bagwaduce, but were repulsed with some loss. On the retreat of the Enemy's troops and ships, the garrison manned their works, and gave three cheers to the men of war, which were returned; and soon after, the general and field officers went down to the beach, and also gave three cheers, which were returned by the ships. Guard-boats, and ships' companies, during the night, lay at their quarters.

only
one

July 26. At 10 A.M. the Enemy's ships got under weigh, and, forming their divisions as yesterday, stood in and engaged the King's ships four glasses and a half. The damages sustained this day, also, were chiefly in the rigging at the extreme ends of the ships; and the fire of the Enemy appears again to be directed to the moorings; which attempt not proving successful, they bore up and anchored without. The Enemy again attempted to land their troops, but were driven back with some little

little loss. At 6 P. M. the Enemy, having stationed two brigs of 14 guns, and one sloop of 12, on the east side of Nautilus island, landed 200 men, and dislodging a party of 20 marines, took possession of four 4-pounders (two not mounted) and a small quantity of ammunition. At 9 P. M. it being found that the Enemy were very busy at work, and that they had landed some heavy artillery, which they were getting up to the heights of the island, and against which the men of war could not act in their present station, it was judged expedient to move them farther up the river. This was accordingly done, and the line formed as before: the transports moved up at the same time, and anchored within the men of war. Guard-boats, and the ships' companies, as usual, lying at their quarters.

July 27. Pretty quiet all this day. A few shot from some ships of the Enemy were aimed at the small battery on Majabigwaduce point; which were returned with a degree of success, one ship having been driven from her station. Observed the Enemy very busy in erecting their battery on Nautilus island. The garrison being much in want of cannon, some guns from the transports, and from the off-side of the men of war, were landed, and, being dragged by the seamen up to the fort, were disposed of for its use. At 3 P. M.
a boat

a boat, passing from the Enemy's ships to Nautilus island, was sunk by a random shot from the fort. At 11 P. M. the guard-boats from the King's ships fell in and exchanged a few shot with the Enemy's.

July 28. At 3 A. M. under cover of their ship's fire, the Enemy made good their landing on Majabigwaduce, and, from their great superiority of numbers, obliged the King's troops to retreat to the garrison. The Enemy's right pressed hard, and in force, upon the left of the King's troops, and attempted to cut off a party of men at the small battery; but the judgement and experience of a brave officer (Lieut. Caffrac, of the 82d) counteracted their designs; and a retreat was effected with all the order and regularity necessary on such occasions. An attempt was made to demolish the guns; but the Enemy pushed their force to this ground so rapidly as not to suffer it. The possession of this battery afforded their ships a nearer station, on which they immediately seized. At 6 A. M. the Enemy opened their battery of 18 and 12 pounders from Nautilus island, and kept up the whole day a brisk and well-directed fire against the men of war. The King's ships cannonaded the battery for two glasses, and killed some men at it; but their light metal (six-pounders) was found to be of little service

service, in comparison to the damages they sustained from such heavy metal brought against them. At 10 A. M. the Warren, of 32 guns, the Commodore's ship, and which had not as yet been in action, got under weigh, and, with three more ships, shewed an appearance of entering the harbour, but hauled by the wind at a long shot distance. A brisk fire was kept up for half an hour, when the Enemy bore up, and came to an anchor again without. The Warren suffered considerably; her main-mast shot through in two places, the gammoning of her bowsprit cut to pieces, and her fore-stay shot away. Their confusion appeared to be great, and very nearly occasioned her getting on shore; so that they were obliged to let go an anchor, and drop into the inlet between Majabigwaduce head and the point, where the ship lay this and the next day repairing her damages. The battery on the island still keeping up a heavy fire, and the ships crews being exposed without the least benefit to the service, Capt. Mowat thought proper to move further up the harbour, which was done in the night, and the line formed again; he being firmly resolved to dispute the harbour to the last extremity, as on that entirely depended the safety of the garrison, whose communication with the men of war was of the utmost importance. The dispositions on shore and on the water co-operating,

C

and

and perfectly supporting each other, foiled the Enemy in their purposes: their troops were yet confined to a spot they could not move from; and, while the harbour was secure, their intentions of making approaches, and investing the fort on all sides, could by no means be put in execution. The present station of the men of war being such as rendered it impossible for the Enemy's ships to act but at particular periods, the marines (whose service, in their peculiar line of duty, was not immediately required on board) were ordered on shore to garrison-duty, holding themselves in readiness to embark at a moment's notice, which with ease they could have effected in ten or fifteen minutes. Guard-boats as usual during the night.

July 29. At 6 A. M. the Enemy's ships weighed, and, altering their positions, came to an anchor again. The state of the fortress requiring more cannon, some remaining off-side guns were landed from the men of war, and dragged by the seamen up to the fortress for its use and that of the batteries; and though the task, to be performed up a steep hill, over rocks and innumerable stumps of fallen trees, was laborious, yet their chearfulness and zeal for the service surmounted every difficulty.

P. M.

P. M. the Enemy opened their batteries on the heights of Majabigwaduce, and kept up a warm and incessant fire against the fortrefs. The commanding ground of the Enemy's works, and the short distance from the fortrefs, gave them some advantages with their grape as well as round shot, which considerably damaged the storehouse in the garrison.

Six pieces of cannon at the half-moon battery near Bank's house, and which belonged to the fortrefs, being now found necessary for its particular defence, were moved up to it, and replaced with some ship's guns, under the direction of the gunner of the Albany, with a party of seamen.

Capt. Mowat having obtained intelligence, that the Enemy, in despair of reducing the King's ships by the means of their own, or of getting possession of the harbour, had come to the resolution of joining their whole force, in troops, marines, and seamen, to storm the fortrefs the next morning at day-break, he judged it expedient to reinforce the garrison with what seamen could be conveniently spared; and, for this purpose, at the close of the evening, 140 men, under the command of Lieut. Brooke, were sent into garrison: part of them were immediately de-

tached to reinforce the troops on the out-line piquets, others manned the facing of their own bastion, while the remainder were busily employed in raising the cavaliers in the fort. In all these operations, a brotherly affection appeared to unite the forces both by sea and land, and to direct their views all to one point, much to their credit, and to the honour and benefit of the service. During the night the Enemy threw a number of shells into the fortrefs. At 10 P. M. a few shot between the Enemy's guard-boats and those from the King's ships.

July 30. The Enemy's ships preserve their disposition of yesterday. A brisk cannonade the whole day between the fortrefs and the Enemy's batteries on the height; and a number of shells thrown on both sides. The store-houses being apprehended to be in danger, some seamen were ordered to move the provisions out of the fortrefs into the ditch in its rear; as likewise a quantity at another store-house. Guard-boats as usual.

July 31. At 2 A. M. the seamen and marines of the Enemy's fleet landed to the westward of the half-moon battery, and, under cover of the night, attacked the piquet, and by heavy platoon firings obliged them to retreat; but an
alert

alert reinforcement of 50 men, who were detached from the garrison, under the command of Lieut. Graham of the 82d regiment, to the support of the piquet, drove the Enemy back with some loss in killed, wounded, and taken, amounting, on the whole, according to the best information, to about 100; the loss on the part of the King's forces, amounting to 13 killed, wounded, and missing, fell chiefly on the seamen and marines, who composed the piquet this night. Lieut. Graham unfortunately received a dangerous wound in this action.

August 1. A slack fire on all sides. At 4 P.M. the Enemy's fleet getting under weigh, and the wind and tide serving them to enter the harbour, the embodied seamen were immediately called on board their respective ships; but it afterwards appeared that the Enemy weighed only to form a closer line. Guard-boats as usual.

August 2. At 10 A.M. three of the Enemy's ships weighed, and came to an anchor nearer the harbour's mouth. Some cannonading between the fortress and the Enemy's batteries on the height. The outer magazine of the fortress being too much exposed, as lying in front and between the two fires, the marines were charged with the duty of bringing it to the
ma-

magazine in the fortress, which was performed without any loss. P. M. a flag of truce from the Enemy, to treat for the exchange of a lieutenant of their fleet, taken (wounded) at the half-moon battery on the 31st ult. but he had died of his wounds this morning. This day the Enemy posted some marksmen behind trees within musquet-shot of the fortress, and killed and wounded some centinels.

August 3. A slack fire the whole day. Perceived the Enemy busy in erecting a battery to the northward on the main, above the King's ships. By a deserter from the Enemy's fleet, we learn, the force landed below the half-moon battery was 1000 seamen and marines, joined on their landing by 200 troops; that their intentions were, to storm the fortress in the rear, while the army from the heights made their attack in front; that it was not intended to storm the half-moon battery, but that they had mistaken their road in endeavouring to get in the rear of the fortress, when they received the first fire of the piquet, which led them to suppose their design had been discovered, and that they were ambushed. The army also, believing this to be the case, retreated to their ground. At 2 P. M. some seamen were sent to the fortress to assist in working the cannon, and another party for the defence of the
Sea-

Seamen's bastion, where a number of swivels from the men of war were planted, loaded with grape shot, as a precaution against any attempt of the Enemy to storm the works. By request of the General, a number of pikes were also brought from the King's ships to the fortrefs, and put in the hands of the seamen, to prevent the Enemy from BOARDING their bastion. Guard-boats out as usual.

August 4. The Enemy's ships retain their former situation. A smart cannonading between the fortrefs and the batteries on the heights, and a great number of shells thrown on both sides. Some ship's buckets for the use of the garrison brought on shore, in case the fascines at the well bastion, or store-houses, might be fired by the Enemy's shells. At 9 A. M. the Enemy opened their new battery near Wescoat's house, on the main, to the northward of the shipping.—A brisk fire was kept up the whole day, and the men of war suffered much in their hulls and rigging: being too far from that battery for the light metal of the ships to produce any effect, their companies were ordered below. P. M. some skirmishing between the piquets, and trifling losses on both sides; on the Enemy's, some Indians were killed. During the day, several accidents happened by cannon-shot in the fort: among others, the boatswain of the Nautilus was wounded by grape, and
a sea-

a seaman belonging to the North killed by an 18-pounder, at the guns they were stationed at in the fortrefs.

August 5. Cannonading the greatest part of the day between the fortrefs and the Enemy's batteries on the height, and from the north battery against the men of war, damaging their hulls and rigging. A. M. the remaining off-side guns from his Majesty's sloop North brought on shore, and mounted in the cavalier in the fortrefs. P. M. the garrison, being much in want of wads and match, was supplied from the men of war, as also with some six-pound shot, together with a quantity of twelve-pound shot, in which it is deficient. The north battery on the main having the command of the opposite shore on the peninsula of Majabigwaduce, where the Enemy, under its protection, might make lodgements in their approaches towards the heights opposite the men of war and within shot of the fortrefs, and might thereby destroy the communication between them and the garrison; Capt. Mowat judged it necessary to erect a work in order to preserve this communication: a square redoubt was therefore marked out, to be manned with 50 seamen, and to mount eight ship's guns *en barbette*. Guard-boats as usual during the night.

August

August 6. Slack fire between the fortrefs and batteries on the heights; and a few shot from the north battery against the men of war, cutting their rigging, and dismounting a six-pounder on board the North. At 4 A. M. 70 seamen from the different ships, under the direction of Lieut. Brooke, of the North, sent on shore to raise the Seamen's redoubt on the height. P. M. a quantity of musquet-cartridges (of which the garrison was in want) brought on shore from the men of war. Guard-boats as usual. At 11 a few shot exchanged between the guard-boats.

August 7. The Enemy's ships preserve their positions. At 9 A. M. three of their brigs got under weigh, and stood down the bay, supposed on the look-out. Some skirmishing between the piquets, with loss to the Enemy; Lieut. McNeil, of the 82d, and one private, wounded. Slack fire between the batteries and the fortrefs, and the north battery perfectly silent. At 4 P. M. discovered a boat crossing the S. E. bay to Hainey's plantation, where the Enemy kept a piquet. Lieut. Congalton, of the Nautilus, chased with the boats from the men of war, and took her; but her crew, with those of a whale-boat, and a gondola for transporting cannon, got safe on shore, and joined the piquet. Capt. Farnham, of the Nautilus, with Lieut Brooke and 50 seamen, joined by a party of soldiers from the garrison, landed and scoured

the woods; the Enemy fled immediately, and so effectually concealed themselves as not to be discovered: some had left their arms, ammunition, and blankets, which were taken and brought on board. Guard-boats as usual during the night.

an infamous lie.

By a deserter from the enemy we learn, that General Lovell had sent out small parties from his army, round the country, and brought in a great number of loyal inhabitants, who were sent on board their fleet, and thrust down the holds, heavily laden with irons, both on the hands and feet; their milch cows, and other stock, killed for the Enemy's use; all their moveables destroyed or plundered, and their wives and children left destitute of every support of life.

August 8. A constant cannonade the whole day between the fortresses and the Enemy's batteries on the height; and from the north battery against the men of war, but returned only with a musket. At 10 A. M. the Enemy brought a field-piece to play from the main on the seamen working at the redoubt; but the facing towards the Enemy being the first raised, for the purpose of covering the party, it was impossible to dislodge them; and a covering party daily attending from the garrison, prevented a nearer approach on any other ground. This evening the redoubt was finished, and, to the credit of the seamen, met with the
appro-

approbation of the General and Engineers. Guard-boats as usual.

August 9. Cannonading as usual. At 9 A.M. a new battery, on the left of the Enemy's lines, was opened against the fortress, and its chief fire, as well as the shells, directed against the N.W. bastion, raised with fascines only. P. M. discovered the Enemy had moved their piquet from Hailey's plantation, and given up their design of carrying on a work for two 18-pounders against the men of war. Guard-boats as usual during the night.

August 10. The Enemy's ships in the former position. A slack fire on all sides; and nothing material.

August 11. A smart cannonading from all the batteries, and some shot from the north battery well directed at the men of war.

August 12. Slack fire on all sides, and no material operations the whole day; but at 9 P. M. a large body of seamen and marines, from the Enemy's fleet, landed below Bank's house to the westward, and setting fire to some barns, houses, and a quantity of lumber-boards, &c. on the beach, retreated to their ships again.

August 13. At day-break some skirmishing between

tween the piquets, but no material loss on either side. At 1 P. M. came in some deserters from the Enemy's ships, who say, the boat chased on shore at Hainey's plantation had in her their Commodore and some officers of their fleet, who, having escaped, returned to their ships, after lying two days and a night in the woods; that one of the officers (Capt. Ross, of the Monmouth) had broke his leg in the woods; and that they were much disconcerted at the loss of the gondola, which was intended to carry over some 18-pounders to the battery on the plantation. Capt. Mowat also (by his usual diligence) obtained information, that a degree of mutiny prevailed in the Enemy's fleet against their Commodore, who, notwithstanding the resolves of several councils of war, and the urgent solicitations of the General to make another attempt on the King's ships, had hitherto declined it through fear of losing some ships; but that, in consequence of another council held this morning on board the Warren, it was determined to force the harbour next tide, and take or destroy the men of war; that five ships were destined for this service, one of which was the Warren; but that the Putnam, of 20 guns, was to lead; and that each ship was doubly manned with picked men. This information was confirmed at noon by five of their fleet getting under weigh, and coming to an anchor in a line, the Putnam being the headmost ship

ship. The marines were now called on board their respective ships, the barricades strengthened, guns double-shotted, and every disposition made for the most vigorous defence. The St. Helena transport had been brought into the line, and fitted out with what guns could be procured, and the crews of the transports (now scuttled and laid on shore, to prevent them from falling into the Enemy's hands) turned on board to fight her; and the General had also advanced five pieces of cannon, under cover of an épaulement, to salute them as they came in. But at 5 P. M. the appearance of some strange sails in the offing, disconcerted the Enemy's plan; and the five ships, getting under weigh again, stood off and on the whole night. Guard-boats watching the motions of the Enemy's fleet; and the ships' companies standing at their quarters until day-light. This night had been fixed upon to storm the north battery, with 60 seamen, under the command of Lieut. Brooke, supported by Lieut. Caffrac, of the 82d, with 50 soldiers; but the Enemy's operations, and the appearance of the strange fleet, prevented the execution of it.

August 14. At day-break this morning it was discovered that the Enemy had during the night moved off their cannon, and quitting the heights of Majabigwaduce, silently embarked in small vessels.

At

At 4 A. M. after firing a shot or two, they also evacuated Nautilus island; and leaving their cannon spiked and dismounted, got on board a brig lying to receive them, and made sail with the transports up Penobscot river. The whole fleet now got under weigh, and upon one of the brig's heaving in sight, off the harbour's mouth, with various signals abroad, they bore up with all sail after the transports. There now remaining no doubt but the strange fleet was the relief expected, the off-side guns of the Albany, North, and Nautilus, were got down from the fortrefs, and being taken on board, the three ships slipped their stern moorings, hove up their bower anchors, and working out of the harbour, joined in about the centre of the King's fleet, in pursuit of the flying Enemy, who were now crouding with every sail they could set. The Hunter and Hampden, two of the Enemy's ships, of 20 guns each, attempted to escape through the passage of Long Island, but were cut off and taken; the former ran in shore, all standing, and was instantly deserted by her crew, who got safe on shore; and the Raisonné, Sir George Collier, being the sternmost ship in the fleet, took possession, and got her off, and came to an anchor near her. The rest of his Majesty's ships continued in chace of the Enemy, until it grew so dark as to render the narrow navigation exceedingly dangerous; and they were obliged to anchor

way of contempt, every evening at sun set.

chor for the night, while the Enemy, having good pilots, ran some miles farther up the river. The Defiance brig, of 14 guns, ran into an inlet, where she could not be pursued, and was set on fire by her crew. During the night the Enemy set fire to several ships and brigs, which blew up with vast explosions.

In short, the harmony and good understanding that subsisted amongst the Forces by sea and by land, enabled them to effect almost prodigies; for so ardently did they vie with each other in the general service, that it may be truly said, not a single Officer, Sailor, or Soldier, was once seen to shrink from his duty, difficult and hazardous as it was. The flying scout of 50 men, commanded by Lieut. Caffrac, of the 82d, in particular, distinguished themselves to admiration, marching frequently almost round the peninsula, both by day and by night, and with drum and fife playing the tune called *Yankee*; which greatly dispirited the Enemy, and prevented their small parties from galling our men at the works. In one instance, they even drove back to their incampment 300 of the Enemy, who had been sent to storm an outwork.

The manœuvres of the Three Sloops of War, under the direction of Capt. Mowat, were, moreover, such as enabled the King's forces to hold out a close siege of 21 days, against a fleet and army of
more

way of contempt, every evening at sun set.

untill one evening I ordered our music to play, "When Sandy up to London went." Im.

more than six times their number, and strength; insomuch that, on the first appearance of the reinforcement from New-York, in the offing, the Enemy debarked their troops, and sailed with their whole fleet up Penobscot river, where they burnt their shipping, and from thence marched to their respective homes: and the loyal inhabitants, who were taken in the time of the siege, and cruelly treated on board their ships, had their irons taken off, and were set at liberty.*

Thus did this little Garrison,† with Three Sloops of War, by the unwearied exertions of Soldiers and Seamen, whose bravery cannot be too much extolled, under the judicious conduct of Officers whose zeal is hardly to be paralleled, succeed, in an enterprise of great importance, against difficulties apparently insurmountable, under circumstances exceedingly critical, and in a manner strongly expressive of their faithful and spirited attachment to the interests of their King and Country.

* To give them a cool airing, as the Enemy called it, once a day, the irons were knocked off their feet, and they were put into a boat, along-side the ship, where they remained about an hour, and had the filth of the ship poured upon their heads. *inf*
fal

† When the account of an army coming to besiege this place was received, the curtains in some parts of the intended fort were not more than four feet in height; two bastions were but just begun to be built, and the other two were only marked out.

A LIST

A LIST of the Enemy's Ships, &c. taken and destroyed in Penobscot River.

| Ships' Names | Commanders | Guns | N ^o . of men | Metal pounders | |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------|
| Warren | Saltonstall, Com. | 32 | 250 | 18 and 12 | Burnt |
| Sally | Holmes | 22 | 200 | 9 and 6 | Burnt |
| Putnam | Waters | 20 | 130 | 9 | Burnt |
| Hector | Cairns <i>Cairnes</i> | 18 20 | 130 | 6 | Burnt |
| Revenge | Hallet | 20 | 120 | 6 | Burnt |
| Monmouth | Ross | 20 | 100 | 6 | Burnt |
| Hampden | Salter | 20 | 130 | 9 and 6 | Taken |
| Hunter | Brown | 20 | 130 | 4 | Taken |
| Vengeance | Thomas | 18 | 140 | 9 and 6 | Burnt |
| Black Prince | West | 18 | 100 | 6 | Burnt |
| Sky Rocket | Burke | 16 | 120 | 6 | Burnt |
| <i>Brigs</i> | | | | | |
| Hazard | Williams | 18 | 100 | 6 | Burnt |
| Active | <i>Hallet</i> | 16 | 100 | 6 | Burnt |
| Tyrannicide | Cathcart | 14 | 90 | 6 | Burnt |
| Defiance | <i>Defiance</i> | 14 | 90 | 6 | Burnt |
| Diligence | Brown | 14 | 90 | 4 | Burnt |
| Pallas | Johnstone | 14 | 80 | 4 | Burnt |
| Sloop Providence | Hacker | 12 | 50 | 6 | Burnt |

With Nine Sail of Transport Vessels 2750 — — Taken
 And Ten Sail of Transport and Ordnance ditto — — Burnt

2150
 Total 37

Killed, wounded, and missing, of his Majesty's Sea and Land Forces

Killed, wounded, and taken, on the Enemy's Side

70
 474 *lie.*

P R O C L A M A T I O N

By Brigadier-General FRANCIS M'LEAN,
— and ANDREW BARKLEY, Esq. com-
manding Detachments of His Majesty's
Land and Naval Forces in the River
Penobscot.

WHEREAS it is well known that there are
in the several Colonies in North-America,
now in open rebellion, many persons who still
retain a sense of their duty, and who are only
deterred from an open profession of it by the
fear of becoming objects of the cruel treatment
which they have seen exercised on others, by
persons who, having plunged their country into
the horrors and distresses it now labours under,
industriously seize every opportunity of gratify-
ing their avaritious and wicked dispositions by
the wanton oppression of individuals:

And whereas it hath been represented, that the
greater part of the inhabitants on the river Pe-
nobscot, and the several islands therein, are well
affected

affected to his Majesty's person, and the ancient constitution under which they formerly flourished, and from the restoration of which they can alone expect relief from the distressed situation they are now in :

Their Excellencies the Commanders in chief of his Majesty's naval and land forces in North-America, taking the good dispositions of the inhabitants above mentioned (as represented to them) into their consideration, and desirous of encouraging and protecting the persons professing them, and securing them from any molestation on that account, have ordered here the forces under our respective commands for that purpose : We therefore, in obedience to their directions, hereby invite, and earnestly request, the inhabitants on the river Penobscot, and the islands therein in general, to be the first to return to that state of good order and government to which the whole must in the end submit, and openly to profess that loyalty and allegiance from which they have been led to swerve by arguments and apprehensions, of the falsehood of which they must have been long ago sensible, as well as of the views of those who first promoted them. We also call on all those in whom those principles have never been shaken, to embrace the present opportunity of manifesting them without dread or apprehensions,

as we hereby assure them of every protection in the power of the forces under our respective commands to bestow. And, to quiet the apprehensions of any persons who might be deterred from embracing this opportunity by the dread of being punished for any former acts of rebellion which they may have been led to commit, we hereby declare that we will extend our protection, and give every encouragement, to all persons of whatever denomination, without any retrospect to their former behaviour, who shall, within eight days from the date hereof, take the oaths of allegiance and fidelity to his Majesty, before such persons as we shall appoint, either at the head-quarters of his Majesty's troops at Majabigwaduce Neck, or at Fort Pownal; which oaths of allegiance and fidelity we require all persons whatever to come and take within the required time, and not, by neglecting to give such testimony of their loyalty, give room to look on them as desirous of continuing in an obstinate and unavailing rebellion, and subject themselves to the treatment such conduct will deserve.

To all persons who, by returning to their allegiance, shall merit it, we not only promise protection and encouragement, with the relief that shall be in our power to alleviate their present distresses; but we also declare, that we will employ
the

the forces under our command to punish all persons whatever who shall attempt in any manner to molest them, either in person or property, on account of their loyalty or conduct towards us: and if forced by their behaviour to punish any men, or set of men, on the above-mentioned account, we declare that we will do it in such an exemplary manner, as we hope will deter others from obliging us to have recourse to such severe means in future.

And whereas the inhabitants, to whom this proclamation is addressed, as well as those in general settled in that part of the country called the Province of Maine, have settled themselves on lands, and cultivated them, without any grant or title by which their possessions can be secured to them or their posterity; we therefore declare, that we have full power to promise, and we do hereby promise, that no person whatever, who shall take the oaths of allegiance as above required, and give such other testimony of their attachment to the constitution, as we, or other officers commanding his Majesty's forces, may require, shall be disturbed in their possessions; but that, whenever civil government takes place, they shall receive gratuitous grants from his Majesty (who alone has the power of giving them) of all lands they may have actually cultivated and improved,

And

And whereas the leaders of the present rebellion, in pursuit of the views which first instigated them to foment it, and probably to blind the people with regard to the cause of the severe distress under which they now labour, have industriously propagated a notion, that the officers of his Majesty's sea and land forces willingly add to their sufferings ; We therefore, to remove such prejudices, and as far as in us lies to alleviate the misery of the inhabitants of the villages and islands along the coast of New England, hereby declare, that such of them as behave themselves in a peaceable orderly manner, shall have full liberty to fish in their ordinary coast fishing craft, without any molestation on our part ; on the contrary, they shall be protected in it by all vessels and parties under our command.

Given on board his Majesty's ship Blonde, in Majabigwaduce river, the 15th of June, 1779.

FRANCIS M'LEAN,
ANDREW BARKLEY.

PRO-

PROCLAMATION

By SOLOMON LOVELL, Esq; Brigadier-General and Commander in Chief of the Forces of the State of Massachusetts Bay, and employed on an Expedition against the Army of the King of Great-Britain at Penobscot.

WHEREAS it hath been represented to Government, that an armament of some sea and land forces belonging to the King of Great-Britain, under the encouragement of divers of inhabitants of these parts, inimically disposed to the United States of America, have made a descent on Penobscot, and the parts adjacent; and, after propagating various false reports of a general insurrection of the Eastern and Northern Indians in their favour, a Proclamation has been issued on the 15th of June last, signed Francis M'Lean and Andrew Barelay, said to be in behalf and by authority of said King, promising grants of lands which he never owned, and of which he has now forfeited the jurisdiction by an avowed breach of

Pumpkin

of that compact between him and his subjects, whereon said jurisdiction was founded, and terrifying by threatenings which his power in this land is unable to execute, unless his servants have recourse to their wonted methods of midnight slaughter and savage devastation, all designs to induce the free inhabitants of these parts of the State to submit to their power, and to take an oath of allegiance to their King, whereby they must greatly profane the name of God, and solemnly intangle themselves in an obligation to give up their cattle, provisions, and labour, to the will of every officer pretending the authority of said King, and finally to take arms against their brethren whenever called upon; and it appears some persons have been induced out of fear, and by the force of compulsion, to take said oath, who may so far be imposed on as to think themselves bound to act in conformity thereto :

I have thought proper to issue this Proclamation, hereby declaring that the allegiance due to the *ancient constitution* obliges to resist to the last extremity the present system of tyranny in the British Government, which has now overset it; that by this mode of government the people have been reduced to a state of nature, and it is utterly unlawful to require any obedience to their forfeited authority; and all acts recognising such

au-

authority are sinful in their nature : no oaths promising it can be lawful ; since, if any act be sin in itself, no oath can make it a duty : the very taking of such an oath is a crime, of which every act adhering to it is a repetition with dreadful aggravations.

In all cases where oaths are imposed, and persons compelled to submit to them, by threats of immediate destruction, which they cannot otherwise avoid, it is manifest that, however obligatory they may be to the conscience of the *compeller*, whose interest and meaning is thereby so solemnly witnessed, it *can have no force on the compelled*, whose interest was known, by the compulsion itself, to be the very reverse of the words in which it is expressed.

At the same time I do assure the inhabitants of Penobscot and the country adjacent, that, if they are found to be so lost to all the virtues of good citizens, as to comply with advice of said pretended Proclamation, by becoming the first to desert the cause of freedom, of virtue, and of God, which the whole force of Britain and all its auxiliaries now find themselves unable to overthrow, they must expect also to be the first to experience the just resentment of this injured and betrayed Country, in the condign punishment which their treason deserves. From this

F

punishment

punishment their invaders will be very unlike to protect them, as it is now known they are not able to protect themselves in any part of America: And as the protection, on which those proclaiming Gentlemen say they have *power* only to *promise*, can be afforded by nothing but the forces which they command, and of these forces by the blessing of God I doubt not in a very short time to be put in possession; so there is more reason to expect it from the Indian nations around, as good part of them are now in my encampment, and several hundreds more in their way speedily to join me; and I have the best evidences from all the rest, that they stedfastly refused to accept of any presents, sign the papers, or do any the barbarous acts assigned them by our Enemies; and, on the contrary, hold themselves in readiness, on the shortest notice, to turn out for the defence of any place which these men may attack.

Therefore, as the authority committed to me necessitates my executing my best endeavours to rid this much-abused country, not only of its foreign, but also from its domestic enemies, I do therefore declare, that when, by the blessing of Heaven on the American arms, we shall have brought the forces that have invaded us to the state they deserve, it shall be my care that the laws of this state be duly executed upon such inhabitants thereof

thereof as have traitoriously abetted or encouraged them in their lawless attempts.

And, that proper discrimination may be made between them and the faithful and liege subjects of the United States, I further declare, that all persons within the Eastern country, that have taken the oath prescribed by the Enemy, and shall not within forty-eight hours after receiving notice of this proclamation repair to my camp at Majabigwaduce, with such arms and accoutrements as they now possess, shall be considered as traitors, who have voluntarily combined with the Common Enemy in the common ruin ; but all such as shall appear at head-quarters within said term, and give proper testimony of their determination to continue cordially in allegiance to the United States of America, shall be recognised as good and faithful members of the community, and treated accordingly, any thing obnoxious in their taking the oath notwithstanding.

Given at Head-Quarters on the Heights of
Majabigwaduce, this 29th Day of July,
Anno Domini 1779, and in the Fourth
Year of the Independence of America.

(Signed) S. LOVELL, Brig. Gen.

By command of the General,
JOHN MARSTON, Secretary.

Copy

Copy of General LOVELL's Letter to Commodore SALTONSTALL; taken with other Papers on board the Transport.

SIR,

Head Quarters, Majabigwaduce Heights, Aug. 11, 1779.

IN this alarming posture of affairs, I am once more obliged to request the most speedy service in your department; and that a moment be no longer delayed to put in execution what I have been given to understand was the determination of your last council.

The destruction of the Enemy's ships must be effected at any rate, although it might cost us half our own; but I cannot possibly conceive that danger, or that the attempt will miscarry. I mean not to determine on your mode of attack; but it appears to me so very practicable, that any farther delay must be infamous: and I have it this moment by a deserter from one of their ships, that the moment you enter the harbour, they will destroy them; which will effectually answer our purpose.

The

The idea of more batteries against them was sufficiently reprobated ; and, would the situation of ground admit of such proceeding, it would *now* take up *dangerous time* ; and we have already experienced their obstinacy in that respect.

You cannot but be sensible of my ardent desire to co-operate with you ; and of this the guard at Westcot's is a sufficient proof, and which I think a hazardous distance from my encampment. My situation is confined ; and while the Enemy's ships are safe, the operations of the Army cannot possibly be extended an inch beyond the present limits : the alternative now remains, to destroy the ships, or raise the siege.

X The information of the British ships at the Hook (probably sailed before this) is not to be despised ; not a moment is to be lost ; we must determine instantly, or it may be productive of disgrace, loss of ships and men : as to the troops, their retreat is secure, although I would die to save the necessity of it.

I feel for the honour of America, in an expedition which a nobler exertion had long before this crowned with success ; and I have now only to repeat the absolute necessity of undertaking

Meaning Sandy Hook
New York —

[38]

the destruction of the ships, or quitting the place :
and with these opinions I shall impatiently wait
your answer.

I am,

S I R,

Yours, &c.

S. LOVELL, Brig. Gen.

To Commodore Saltonstall.

T H E E N D.